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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
the AVENGERS
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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

AVENGERS

They are the world's greatest heroes: America's super-soldier, reborn from the ashes of World War II; an immortal thunder god from the golden halls of Asgard; a modern-day knight clad in futuristic armor of his own design; a young woman whose mutant power to affect probability causes some to see her as a witch; an archer whose unerring eye is matched only by the strength of his arms; a brilliant scientist and his one true love, each endowed with the abilities of the smallest of Earth's creatures, the insects; and a hybrid who embodies the finest and most ferocious aspects of the feline species. Together, they stand allied against the threats that none of them can face alone; together, they are much, much more than merely the sum of their parts. They are Earth's Mightiest Heroes—The Avengers!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

The Avengers' moral compass as well as their field leader, *Captain America* has recently been awakened from a decades-long dream to return to the service of his country once again. Originally our greatest fighting man against the Axis forces in WWII, *Cap* now stands vigilant guardian against the evils that plague modern America, while seeking to find his own place in society as *Steve Rogers*.

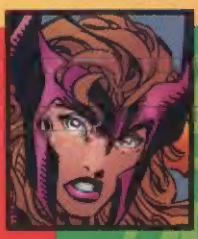
THOR

The god of thunder, *Thor* is the immortal son of Odin, chief sky god as worshipped by the Vikings. Departing from his home in hallowed Asgard, *Thor* has sworn to protect the inhabitants of Midgard (Earth) from all who would seek to do them harm. By his side he carries the indestructible enchanted hammer, *Mjolnir*, one of the most powerful weapons in the universe.

IRON MAN

Brilliant and fabulously wealthy inventor *Tony Stark* is both the Avengers' chief source of financial support, and also secretly one of their most powerful members. When a near-fatal accident forced *Stark* to don an experimental life-preserving armor of his own design, he chose to take advantage of the fateful occurrence by using the armor to fight for good as the invincible *Iron Man*.

SCARLET WITCH



The mysterious young woman known only as *Wanda* was abandoned as a child and later found and raised by the so-called witch, Agatha Harkness. While her abilities may themselves seem like witchcraft to some, in truth they are the expression of her mutant ability to psionically affect probability, manifested by her "hexes". She continues to hone her abilities in the Avengers as the *Scarlet Witch*.

HAWKEYE

A master archer as well as an accomplished acrobat, *Clint Barton* felt that his talents were wasted on a burgeoning career in the circus and chose instead the life of an adventurer. Cocky and independent, he has always felt that the mantle of leadership in the Avengers would fit his shoulders rather better than it fits anyone else's.

ANT-MAN

Genius scientist *Hank Pym*, researcher in the field of microbiotics, created an incredible Micron gas whose unique properties caused items that it affected to shrink in size. In an attempt to repair the android Avenger known as the *Vision*, *Pym* himself became the first subject of the use of Micron gas on a living being. *Pym* later joined the ranks of the Avengers as the astonishing *Ant-Man*.

PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

The evil trickster and god of lies, Loki—also half-brother to the mighty Thor—has set in a motion a scheme to beset the Avengers with attacks from all sides, in the hopes that he might finally defeat them, and in doing so, absorb their life energies to boost his own.

But when Ant-Man, deep inside the internal systems of the android Vision, discovered that the Vision's memory core was being drawn upon for information as to the Avengers' greatest villains, he shut his android creation down—unknowingly severing Loki's link to the data and therefore preventing him from further using it against the Avengers.

However, Loki persisted, his efforts now directed toward turning the Avengers' own members against the team; although he failed to entice the Scarlet Witch, he succeeded with Hellcat.

Meanwhile, the Avengers learned that the Gamma Core powering Avengers Island, previously thought to have been shut down, had somehow become active again—and even more inexplicable was the arrival from its heart of a completely different, but somehow familiar, Thor!

THE FURIOUS ELEMENTS THEMSELVES WELCOME THE FALLEN WARRIOR!
BY THE POWER OF MJOLNIR, LET THE STORMS OF ENERGY BE STILLED!
SCHREOOOOW
Uhh... THIS LOOKS LIKE MORE THAN YOU GUYS CAN HANDLE! GET BEHIND ME!
IRON MAN! WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR... ALMOST NATURAL...
THOR? IS IT REALLY YOU?
CAPTAIN AMERICA?! WELL MET IN VALHALLA INDEED!
YOU... KNOW US?
AND SHOULD I NOT KNOW MY BOON COMPANIONS OF YORE... THE MIGHTY AVENGERS THEMSELVES?
GREAT IS ODIN'S MERCY THAT HE WOULD SANCTION OUR FELLOWSHIP HERE TILL THE END OF DAYS.
THOUGH IN TRUTH, IRON MAN, THY GARB IS SOMEWHAT ALTERED.
IT IS?
"GARB"? NOTHING! CHECK OUT THOSE PECS!

AND YOURS, OLD FRIEND? I VAGUELY RECALL A BARE CHEST... OR CHAINS... OR...
I TOO SENSE... A DIFFERENCE, CAPTAIN.
YET I FEEL RENEWED!
MORE ALIVE THAN I HAVE FELT IN A LONG, LONG TIME!
NOT ALL OF HELA'S MINIONS COULD STAND AGAINST ME AT THIS MOMENT!
BRING ON THE EINHERJAR* AND LET THE JOYOUS EVERLASTING BATTLE BEGIN!
* WARRIORS OF VAHALLA --Rachelle
Um, ACTUALLY, THOR... I DON'T THINK THIS IS VALHALLA.
HOW COULD IT BE OTHERWISE? I HAVE DIM MEMORIES OF A GREAT BATTLE...
...OF HEROIC SACRIFICE... OF A FINAL ENDING. 'TIS THAT NOT THE VERY GATEWAY TO THE BLESSED REALM?
COULD BE. BUT RIGHT NOW, WE'RE ON AVENGERS ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF MANHATTAN...
...INSIDE THE REACTOR CONTAINMENT BUILDING.
A NUCLEAR REACTOR? OFF THE SHORES OF MANHATTAN?
BUT... SUCH A THING IS FOLLY BEYOND RECKONING!
I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH YOU...
...BUT WE SEEM SURROUNDED BY RIDDLES...
...AND THE REACTOR FROM WHICH YOU STEPPED ONLY A MOMENT AGO IS ONE OF THE KEYS, I'M SURE OF IT!
"IT'S QUIET AGAIN... BUT DEAD? OR MERELY DORMANT?
"I HAVE AN IDEA WHERE WE MIGHT FIND THE ANSWERS WE NEED!"

RIVERSIDE PARK BESIDE THE HUDSON...
I CAN'T BELIEVE CAP IS STILL IN CHARGE OF THE AVENGERS! THOR'S QUIT, THE SCARLET WITCH IS GONE...
...THE SWORDSMAN'S VANISHED!
AT THIS RATE, IN ANOTHER WEEK, WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO FIELD AN ENTIRE TEAM!
THEN... MAYHAP IT IS TIME TO JOIN A NEW TEAM.
MY TEAM.
YOU! THE ONE THOR CALLED LOKI!*
YOU'RE ONE OF THE BAD GUYS!
I MAY NOT BE CRAZY ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT LEAVING THE AVENGERS? FORGET IT!
AND WHO'S ON THIS "TEAM" OF YOURS ANYWAY?
*BACK IN AVENGERS #1 -- Rachelle
SOME OLD FRIENDS.
I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY KNOW THE SCARLET WITCH.
HI, HAWKEYE. YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT SIGNING UP.
YOU CAN BE THE LEADER.
I'M JUST WILD ABOUT LEADERS!

WANDA?
BUT... YOU ATTACKED US THE LAST TIME WE SAW YOU!
Ah. THAT WAS THEN.
THIS IS NOW.
MEET THE NEW SCARLET WITCH! THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW... MODIFICATIONS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'LL BE GLAD TO FILL YOU IN. PERSONALLY.
I HAVE SOME PRESSING APPOINTMENTS. WHY DON'T YOU TWO CONTINUE TO STROLL ALONG THE RIVER...
...AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER?
I'LL BE AROUND.
NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
COME ON, HANDSOME. I DON'T BITE... UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!

THE REACTOR'S DEAD AS A DOORNAIL RIGHT NOW, REED, BUT HOW COULD IT HAVE REACTIVATED ITSELF?
WE THOUGHT WE DESTROYED THE CORE, CAP. BUT THE NONRADIOACTIVE NATURE OF THIS NEW ENERGY...
...PLUS ITS SHEER MAGNITUDE...
...SUGGEST THAT AVENGERS ISLAND MAY HOUSE SOMETHING ENTIRELY UNIQUE IN OUR EXPERIENCE...
...A DIMENSIONAL RIP IN THE SPACE-TIME FABRIC OF THE VERY UNIVERSE...
...MANIFESTING ITSELF AS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND DANGEROUS CREATIONS ON EARTH... A NUCLEAR REACTOR!
AND JUDGING FROM THE IMAGES WE SAW THERE...
...IT MAY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO GIVE BIRTH... TO A TRIO OF THE AVENGERS' MOST DANGEROUS FOES!
SO SOME OF US MAY BE REAL AND SOME OF US MAY BE MANUFACTURED?
OH, WE'RE ALL REAL ENOUGH. BUT I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT WE COME FROM DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS.
THE "REACTOR" MAY BE A DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE... OR EVEN A WHITE HOLE.
BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S BUILT RIGHT INTO THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THIS UNIVERSE!
WHICH IS WHY NONE OF US, UNTIL NOW, EVEN QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF HAVING A NUCLEAR REACTOR SO NEAR TO MANHATTAN!
BUT THE MAN WHO KNOWS THAT REACTOR INSIDE AND OUT, BRUCE BANNER, IS MISSING.
AND WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE, WE'RE SITTING ON A TIME BOMB!

AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE ELSE...
WELCOME, BROTHER.
STUFF THY WELCOME! I AM BACK BUT A SHORT WHILE AND BORED TO DEATH ALREADY! THE AVENGERS BE SO DULLETH! NO REAVING, NO KILLING, NO PLUNDERING, NO WENCHING!
I AM MINDED TO KILL THEE JUST FOR FUN! BUT THE ENCHANTRESS HATH TOLD ME THOU HAST PLANS TO ALTER THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS!
INDEED I DO, THOR! I PROPOSE TO REESTABLISH THE RULE OF THE ASGARDIANS ON EARTH...
...EMBELLISHED IN THE FINEST VIKING TRADITION!
REAVING, KILLING, PLUNDERING, WENCHING... ALL OBLIGATORY PARTS OF THE PROGRAM, OF COURSE!
SURELY THE THUNDER GOD MUST BE A PART OF THAT PLAN.
BUT YOU BE UNTRUSTWORTHY!
DEAR BROTHER, YOU ALWAYS SEE THROUGH MY LITTLE SCHEMES!
OF COURSE I'M UNTRUSTWORTHY! I AM LOKI!
BUT WE WILL STRIKE A BARGAIN.
IF I HAVE LIED TO YOU...
...YOU MAY CRUSH MY SKULL WITH YOUR MIGHTY HAMMER! YOU HAVE MY WORD!
TO MINE MIND, THAT DOTH SOUNDETH GOOD!
MAYHAP THOR SHALL CELEBRATE BY REAVING SOME SMALL MEASURE.
THERE ARE STILL A FEW ODDS AND ENDS TO TAKE CARE OF.
WHY NOT GO WITH THE ENCHANTRESS AND CELEBRATE IN SOME OTHER WAY. REAVING CAN WAIT.
Hmmmm! SO BE IT!

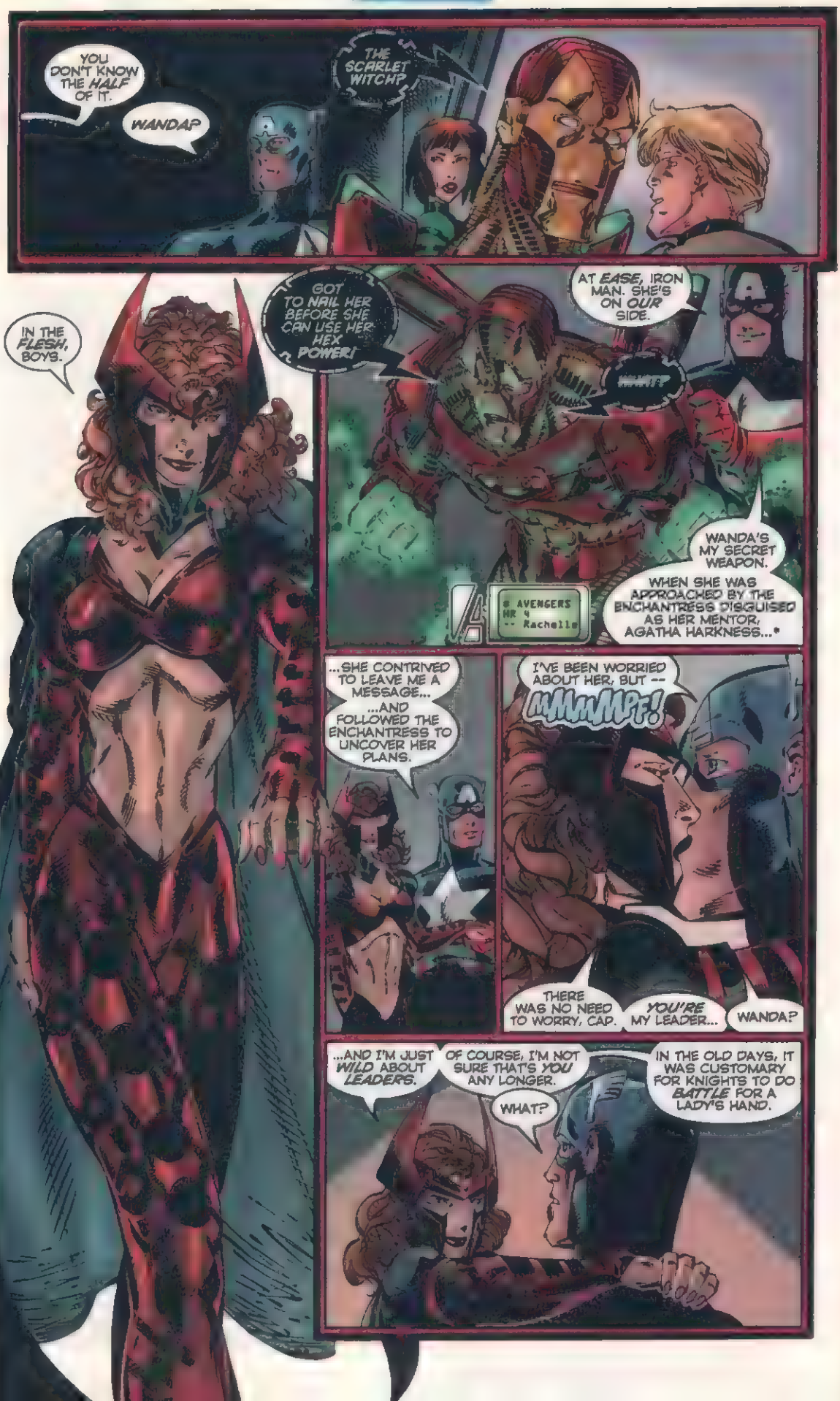
SOMEWHERE ABOVE THE ANDES MOUNTAINS OF PERU...
WE HAVE VISUAL ACQUISITION, COLONEL FURY! KANG'S STARSHIP JUST AHEAD.
AWRIGHT! BUCKLE UP, YA YAHOOS!
AN' REMEMBER. NOBODY OPENS FIRE WITHOUT MY SAY SO.
MY GOD! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING!
WHAT WUZ THAT, MISTER? I DIDN'T NEAR YOU!
I SAID I'M READY TO GO, COLONEL!
THAT'S WHUT I THOUGHT!
COURSE AND SPEED MATCH ACCOMPLISHED. INITIATE DOCKING.
AKKKREANG
SSSST
"HULL BREACH COMPLETE!"
LET'S GO!
NEGATIVE SENSOR READINGS, SIR!
SHIP APPEARS TO BE EMPTY.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
KANG WAS A MAIN GUY. ANYBODY WHO COULD FRY HIS BACON'LL BE REAL TROUBLE FOR US!
WHAT DO -- ?
COLONEL! I'VE ACCESSED THE SHIP'S VISUAL RECORDS!

THE MOST RECENT ENTRY WAS A FEW DAYS AGO.
GOOD WORK. CAN YOU PULL IT UP ON SCREEN?
ROGER THAT.
I'M DISCORPORATING! I MUST ATTACK! REVERSE THE PROCESS WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
I AM SORRY, MY LORD, BUT REGRETTABLY, YOUR TIME IS UP.
#The complete story was in AVENGERS #? -- Rachelle
GEEZ! THAT GUY JUST TOASTED KANG!
AND DIDN'T EVEN WORK UP A SWEAT!
"WHO WAS THAT GUY, COLONEL!"
"TROUBLE. NAME OF LOKI!
"SEARCH THE REST OF THE SHIP WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB.
"I WANT A FULL REPORT AT 0200 HOURS!"
"WHERE'RE YOU GOING, COLONEL?"
"THERE'RE SOME FOLKS THAT OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS...
"...AND I AIM TO DELIVER THE NEWS PERSONALLY."

STARK MANSION...
...THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM...
WE MAY HAVE A TIE-IN TO THE REACTOR PROBLEM INVOLVING THE VISION.
AN ENERGY CHANNEL ACCESSED HIS MEMORY CORE WHILE HE WAS INOPERATIVE...
...AND WAS DRAWING COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS OF AVENGERS' VILLAINS WE FOUGHT FROM IT, LIKE THE IMAGES WE SAW IN THE REACTOR.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WAS DONE. THE VISION'S MEMORY WAS ENCRYPTED.
ONCE I SHUT HIM DOWN, WITHOUT THE CORE TO CHANNEL THE ENERGY POURING INTO HIM, HIS SYSTEMS OVERLOADED AND HE BLEW UP.
I SUSPECT COLONEL FURY THINKS I SABOTAGED HIM DELIBERATELY.
I MIGHT HAVE, BUT MEBBE I'LL RETHINK MY POSITION.
COLONEL!
THE DOOR WAS OPEN. IN FACT, ALMOST EVERY ROOM IN THE JOINT IS OPEN.
THE NEW MASTERS OF EVIL DID SOME REDECORATING BEFORE WE COULD STOP THEM.
WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU, COLONEL? I IMAGINE THIS ISN'T MERELY A SOCIAL CALL.

DON'T GET SMART, PAL.
YOU MAY BE A WALKING AMERICAN FLAG TA EVERYBODY ELSE...
...BUT YER JUST ONE MORE BIG GUN WHO CAN'T BE AIMED TA ME!
THOU ART A GUEST IN THIS HOUSE AND I RESPECT THAT...
...BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA OF ALL MORTALS --
-- DOTH NOT MERIT THE DISRESPECT IMPLICIT IN THY VOICE.
YEOWCH!
WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?
COLONEL FURY, MAY I PRESENT THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER.
YEAH? WELL, YOU'D BETTER CHECK HIS I.D....
...'CAUSE THE GUY YOU PULLED OUT OF THE AMBER IS OVER IN A CHELSEA BAR TEARING UP THE PLACE.*
I GOT THE REPORT JUST BEFORE I ARRIVED. N.Y.P.D.'S GOT THEIR HANDS FULL.
Rochelle.
IF WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD ME OF MY NAMESAKE IS TRUE, CAPTAIN...
...THE POLICE OF MIDGARD WILL BE OVERMATCHED.

SAVE MY SEAT.
HE GETS RIGHT TO THE POINT, DOESN'T HE? IS HE THE *REAL* GOD OF THUNDER?
ONLY TIME WILL TELL, COLONEL.
BUT I *SUSPECT* YOU HAVE MORE ON YOUR MIND THAN A BAR FIGHT.
NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLIN' ME YER A MIND READER. BUT YER RIGHT.
CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO. IT AIN'T FROM BLOCKBUSTER. I TOLD YOU I'D LET YA KNOW WHEN WE FOUND KANG'S SHIP.
WE FOUND IT.
WE DIDN'T FIND KANG. OR MANTIS.
THIS IS WHY NOT.
MY HANDS!
THAT DOOR THING! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?!
APPARENTLY HER ESSENCE IS BEING ABSORBED BY HER ATTACKER.
HE LOOKS FAMILIAR.
HE SHOULD. HE APPEARED WHEN WE FOUND THE BARBARIAN THOR'S GRAVE!
HE'S *LOKI*, GOD OF LIES AND DECEPTION.
I THINK WE MAY HAVE JUST FOUND ANTMAN'S *ANSWER* TO THE *VISION* PROBLEM!


YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.
WANDA?
THE SCARLET WITCH?
IN THE FLESH, BOYS.
GOT TO NAIL HER BEFORE SHE CAN USE HER HEX POWER!
AT EASE, IRON MAN. SHE'S ON OUR SIDE.
WANDA'S MY SECRET WEAPON.
WHEN SHE WAS APPROACHED BY THE ENCHANTRESS DISGUISED AS HER MENTOR, AGATHA HARKNESS...*
AVENGERS MR 4 -- Rachelle
...SHE CONTRIVED TO LEAVE ME A MESSAGE...
...AND FOLLOWED THE ENCHANTRESS TO UNCOVER HER PLANS.
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HER, BUT --
MMMMPF!
THERE WAS NO NEED TO WORRY, CAP.
YOU'RE MY LEADER...
WANDA?
...AND I'M JUST WILD ABOUT LEADERS.
OF COURSE, I'M NOT SURE THAT'S YOU ANY LONGER.
WHAT?
IN THE OLD DAYS, IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR KNIGHTS TO DO BATTLE FOR A LADY'S HAND.

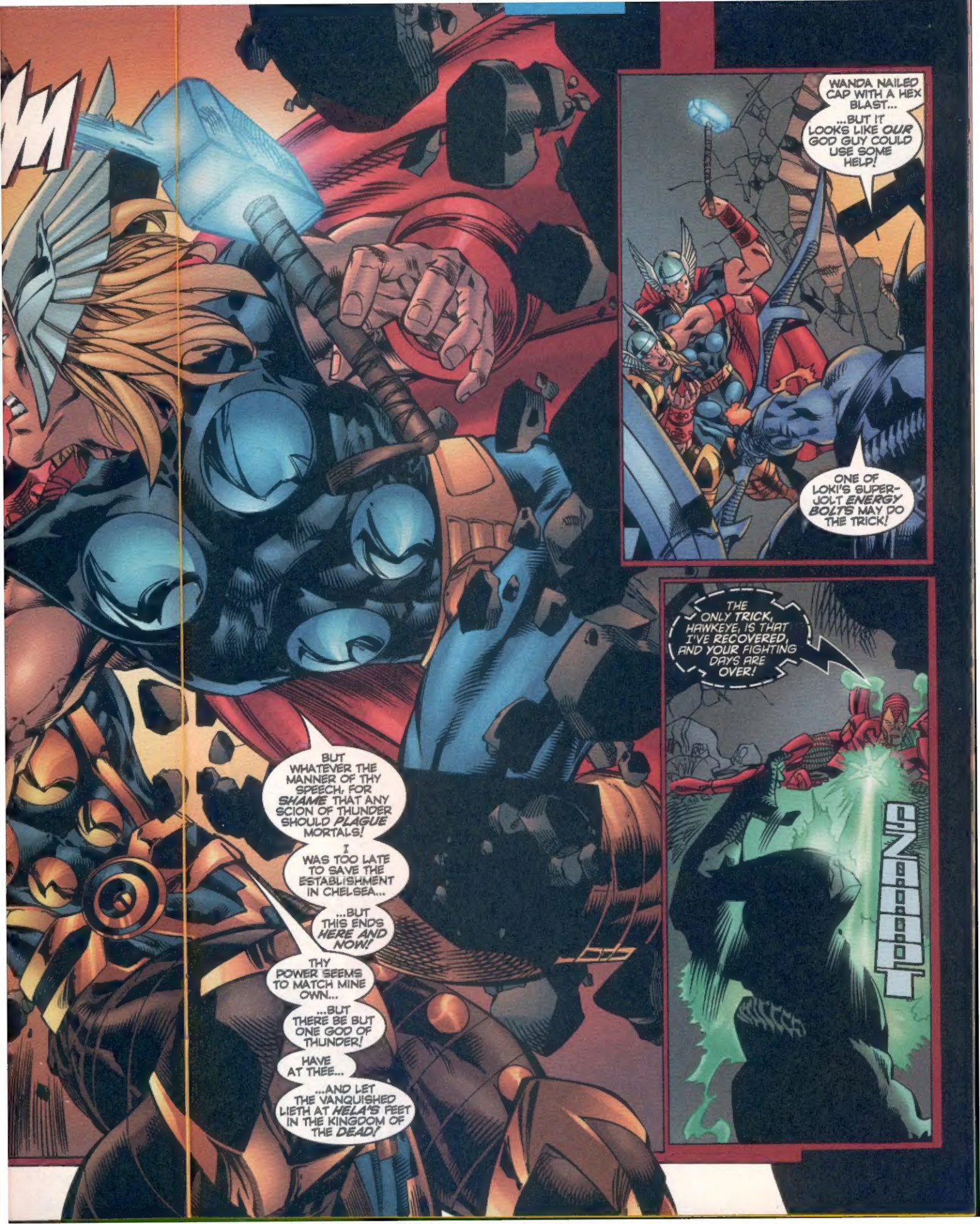
SHE MEANS IT'S TIME FOR THE OLD GUYS TO STEP ASIDE!
SKRAKKT
URKK!
HAWKEYE! NO!
HRRAHT
HEADS UP, CAP! I GOT ME A NEW BOW, SOME NEW ARROWS...
...AND A WHOLE NEW 'TUDE!
RIGHT INTO MY BLAST!
DUCK, JAN!
OHH!
I FOUND I LIKED THE BAD GUYS SO MUCH, I DECIDED TO SWITCH!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THE FANCY EQUIPMENT, TRAITOR...
...BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME HISTORY!

THEE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN RIGHT, IRON MAN...
...BUT HAWKEYE HATH NEW FRIENDS...
KRANG
...AND 'TIS THEE WHOM ARE TO BECOME HISTORY!
THOR!
BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN CHELSEA!
THE WENCHING IS OVER! 'TIS TIME FOR REAVING!
HANK! COME ON! BEFORE SHE CAN FIRE ANOTHER BLAST!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
SURELY, HANK PYM, YOU'D NOT LEAVE ME FOR ANOTHER WOMAN?
WHAT? WHO?
I AM CALLED THE ENCHANTRESS...
I—
... AND I AM THE DREAM OF EVERY MORTAL MAN.
...NO... I...
SO LOSE YOURSELF IN MY KISS...
...AND DREAM OF ME.
...ahhh...

WANDA! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE DOING THIS!
FORGET HER, WANDA! TALK ABOUT YOUR LAME-O/D POWERS!
SPRAKKT
UGH!
ETARP
OWW! HOLD STILL FOR ONE SECOND AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT!
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!
THEN LET'S MAKE IT HARDER!
I KNEW YOU WERE RECKLESS, HAWKEYE...
...BUT I NEVER BELIEVED YOU'D TURN AGAINST US!
UGH!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT!
THAT WAS YOUR FIRST MISTAKE!
SHOOTING ME IN THE BACK WAS YOUR SECOND!
NOW WITHOUT THAT BOW, WE'LL FIGHT ON MY TERMS!
SAY WHAT YOU WILL, OLD MAN! WHEN WE'RE DONE, I'LL BE CHAMP!
STAY UP, IRON MAN, AND FIGHT! INVOKE THY WARRIOR SPIRIT!
YOU AIN'T TOUGHT CHEW SOME REPULSOR RAYS, WINGHEAD!
BRAAP
UHH! HAMMER REFLECTED MY BLAST RIGHT BACK AT ME!

I'LL HAVE TO PUMP EVERYTHING INTO ONE SHOT!
BLAST RIGHT THROUGH HIS PROTECTION!
SKREEOOWW
AARRGH!
THWAM
NOW, IRON MAN! PREPARE FOR THY JOURNEY TO HEL!

WHAT?
THRAMM
MINE HAMMER THRUST ASIDE BY...
...ANOTHER HAMMER!
THIS BE IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU SPEAK STRANGELY, WARRIOR ...
...AS THOUGH THY TONGUE WERE TWISTED IN KNOTS!
BUT WHATEVER THE MANNER OF THY SPEECH, FOR SHAME THAT AN SCION OF THUNDE SHOULD PLAGU MORTALS!
I WAS TOO LAT TO SAVE THE ESTABLISHMEN IN CHELSEA...
...BUT THIS ENDS HERE AND NOW!
THY POWER SEEMS TO MATCH MINE OWN...
...BUT THERE BE BUT ONE GOD OF THUNDER!
HAVE AT THEE...
...AND LET THE VANQUISHE LIETH AT HELA'S IN THE KINGDOM THE DEAD!


WANDA NAILED CAP WITH A HEX BLAST...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE OUR GOD GUY COULD USE SOME HELP!
ONE OF LOKI'S SUPER-JOLT ENERGY BOLTS MAY DO THE TRICK!
THE ONLY TRICK, HAWKEYE, IS THAT I'VE RECOVERED, AND YOUR FIGHTING DAYS ARE OVER!
BUT WHATEVER THE MANNER OF THY SPEECH, FOR SHAME THAT ANY SCION OF THUNDER SHOULD PLAGUE MORTALS!
I WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CHELSEA...
...BUT THIS ENDS HERE AND NOW!
THY POWER SEEMS TO MATCH MINE OWN...
...BUT THERE BE BUT ONE GOD OF THUNDER!
HAVE AT THEE...
...AND LET THE VANQUISHED LIETH AT HELA'S FEET IN THE KINGDOM OF THE DEAD!
SNAP!

UNBELIEVABLE!
THAT ANY SINGLE UNIVERSE WOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO CONTAIN TWO SUCH THUNDERING DUNDERHEADS!
I PLANNED TO DEFEAT THE AVENGERS AND CONSUME THEIR LIFE ENERGIES AS I HAVE DONE WITH THEIR FOES!
MY SUBTLE MAGIC HATH TURNED HAWKEYE TO MY SIDE...
SSSSSSS
...AND ONCE I PLACED HELLCAT'S SOUL WITHIN THE BODY OF THE TREACHEROUS SCARLET WITCH...
...SHE TOO WAS MINE!
YET THE BALANCE OF POWER IS PRECARIOUSLY ALTERED NOW...
...AND ONLY A LIGHTNING STROKE MAY YET WREST VICTORY FROM POTENTIAL DEFEAT!
I HAD HOPED TO BE STILL MORE POWERFUL WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO TAKE THE ENERGY FROM ITS SOURCE...
...BUT THIS NEW THOR FORCES MY HAND!
HERE ON AVENGERS ISLAND, I MUST DO WHAT I HAVE NOT DARED TO DO BEFORE...
...RIP OPEN THE REACTOR...
...AND CONSUME THE ENERGY DIRECTLY!
AND IF I PAY FOR MY AMBITION WITH MY LIFE...
...SO BE IT!
SKKREEACTT

AHHH! MY BODY IS ON FIRE!
BURNING!
BUT... I FEEL... THE FURY!
GROWING! INFUSING MY ENTIRE BEING! GIVING ME POWER BEYOND MEASURE!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I HAVE WON! YES! THE AGE OF LOKI HATH BEGUN!
NEXT
SHADOW VICTORY!
OUR HEROES TAKE ON THEIR MOST POWERFUL FOE AND DISCOVER...
...THAT EVEN AVENGERS CAN DIE!